

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08  
CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15  
PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00  
USIE-00 /074 W

-----001195 251158Z /13

O 251032Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4472  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
DSAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01471

SECDEF FOR ISA/OSDR&E

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, BE  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN HAWK

REF: A) BRUSSELS 1215,  
B) SECDEF MSG 1841 DTG 241721Z JAN 78 FROM ASD/ISA

1. KAREL VAN MIERT, ONE OF TWO CO-PRESIDENTS OF BELGIAN  
SOCIALIST PARTY (WHICH IS THE MAJOR COALITION PARTNER  
IN THE TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT) PUBLICLY OPPOSED PROPOSED  
BELGIAN PURCHASE OF IMPROVED HAWK EVENING OF JANUARY 24.

2. VAN MIERT REFERRED TO PREVIOUS POSITION TAKEN BY  
BELGIAN MILITARY (SINCE REVERSED) THAT PURCHASE OF  
IMPROVED HAWK WAS NOT NECESSARY. HE CHARACTERIZED  
IMPROVED HAWK AS ALMOST THE "END OF A SERIES" AND  
SAID THAT THERE WAS LITTLE ECONOMIC COMPENSATION  
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FOR SUCH A PURCHASE IN PROSPECT. VAN MIERT WENT ON TO  
CRITICIZE SHARPLY THE MEANS OF CONTROL OF MILITARY SPEND-  
ING BY THE MOD AND INSISTED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER VANDEN  
BOEYNANTS IDENTIFY EXACTLY WHERE IN THE MILITARY BUDGET  
THE 4 BILLION BF FOR IMPROVED HAWK WOULD COME FROM.  
HE FINALLY SUGGESTED THAT MILITARY SALARIES COULD BE  
RAISED BY MAKING SAVINGS ON THE PURCHASE OF NEW HARDWARE.

(BRUSSELS 1402, DTG 241216Z JAN 78 NOTAL DESCRIBED A MASS DEMONSTRATION BY BETWEEN 6-8000 MILITARY IN LIEGE JAN. 21 IN SUPPORT OF PAY PARITY WITH CIVIL SERVANTS OF LIKE GRADE AND RESPONSIBILITY.)

2. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS INFORMED CHARGE EVENING OF JANUARY 24 THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITH DEFENSE MATTERS. HE SAID THERE WAS BOTH A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN IN BELGIUM IN REGARD TO THE MILITARY THREAT. HE SPECIFICALLY CITED HAWK AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BELT. TINDEMANS COMMENTED THAT AFTER ALL THE EFFORTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE, NOW VAN MIERT MADE HIS STATEMENT. ASKED WHERE THE ISSUE NOW STOOD, TINDEMANS SHRUGGED AND SAID HE DID NOT KNOW.

3. WE SPOKE TO DEFENSE MINISTRY EARLY JANUARY 25 TO PASS ON EXTENSION OF CONTRACTUAL OFFER ON IMPROVED HAWK FROM JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 3 (REFTEL B). MOD WAS PLEASED WITH U.S. RESPONSE BUT DREW OUR ATTENTION TO NEW SERIOUS PROBLEM VAN MIERT STATEMENT POSED TO THE COALITION GOVERNMENT FOR A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN IMPROVED HAWK PROGRAM. COMMENT: MOD WAS OBVIOUSLY AS TAKEN ABACK BY THE VAN MIERT STATEMENT AS WAS PRIME MINISTER. ISSUE WHICH HAD BEEN WELL ON TRACK IS NOW AGAIN IN DOUBT. CONFIDENTIAL

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END COMMENT. OLSEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY SALES, MISSILES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** MARR, MPOL, BE, NATO  
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**Review Markings:**  
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